

K-212

Owlhurst
Near Kennedyville
c. 1830

Owlhurst appears on the 1860 map of Kent County as having been in the possession of Colonel E. Jefferson. The house he would have occupied was composed of a four-bay, two-story, frame section with hall-parlor plan. Attached to its western end was a two-bay kitchen wing, built over a basement. Only the basic form and a few details remain in the house today. Noteworthy is the dining room cabinet with tall paneled double doors.

Later in the 19th century, a third section was built on the west end. It serves as the kitchen at present. This is a survival of a vernacular form of house that was built in Kent County from the mid-18th to mid-19th century.

K-212

Circa 1810-1840

Owlhurst

Near Locust Grove

Private

The gable-roofed frame house at Owlhurst, with its three sections dating from three different periods, is located at the western end of a long lane from the Browntown-Black's Station Road. Its axis is east-west. The 2-1/2 storey main section includes the oldest, easternmost section of the house, which has a hall-and-parlor plan on the first storey and is four bays wide on the approach (south) side of the first storey. The second storey has a wide, long hall across much of the front of this section leading to three bedrooms. This section is late Federal in style, or even transitional, showing a few Greek Revival influences. The house is difficult to date, however, because of alterations and removals. It probably dates from late in the first quarter of the nineteenth century or early in the second quarter although it may be as late as 1840 or even 1850. The two-bay wide western section of the main section was added next, following the same roof and wall planes of the hall-and-parlor section. Providing a kitchen on the first storey and now one bedroom on the second storey, it may have replaced an earlier kitchen wing. The latest, westernmost section of the house is a lower, two-bay-wide, true 1-1/2 storey section. It probably housed farm laborers at least on the second storey and dates from the late nineteenth century or even early twentieth century. Buildings dating from the first half of the nineteenth century that have a hall-and-parlor plan (at least on the first storey) are now rare in Kent County. Either not many were built using this old plan or not many have survived. For a house of this size owners were increasingly likely to prefer the more formal central-hall plan. Although such practical considerations,

such as efficient use of space and minimizing draughts may have led to the plan of Owlhurst, the building may also be a reflection of the persistence of building forms and styles in a basically conservative, rural county. Although the house at the Stoltzfus Farm (K-186) was built of brick, the plan there is almost identical to that of the early section at Owlhurst.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Owlhurst

2. Location

West side Browntown-Black's Station Rd., .7 mile west of Rt.444
 street & number south of Locust Grove not for publication

city, town Locust Grove X vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>X</u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. & Mrs. John D. Fernwalt Jr.

street & number telephone no.: son, tenant 348-2222

city, town Kennedyville state and zip code Maryland 21645

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House EHP 12
 liber EHP 80

street & number Cross Street 687
 folio 761

city, town Chestertwon state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 23, 1968 X federal X state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. K-212

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The gable-roofed frame house at Owlhurst, with its three sections dating from three different periods, is located at the western end of a long lane from the Browntown-Black's Station Road. It axis is east-west. The 2-1/2 story main section includes the oldest, easternmost section of the house, which has a hall-and-parlor plan on the first story and is four bays wide on the approach (south) side of the first story; it is built over a crawl space. This section is late Federal in style, or even transitional, showing a few Greek Revival influences. The house is difficult to date, however, because of alterations and removals (such as mantels); recent remodeling has covered many original elements. It probably dates from late in the first quarter of the nineteenth century or early in the second quarter although it may be as late as 1840 or even 1850. In plan it strongly resembles the brick farmhouse at the Stoltzfus Farm (K-186), located a few miles away. The two-bay wide western section of the main section was added next, following the same roof and wall planes of the hall-and parlor section; it has a cellar. Providing a kitchen on the first story and now one bedroom on the second story, it may have replaced an earlier kitchen wing. The latest, westernmost section of the house is a lower two-bay-wide, true 1-1/2 story section, which may have come to have a kitchen on the first story; it probably housed farm laborers on the second. It probably dates from the late nineteenth century or even early twentieth century. Southwest of the house is a small, gable-roofed brick structure that may have been built as a springhouse and then used as a dairy. The old well is nearby.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-212

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1800-1825 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Buildings dating from the first half of the nineteenth century that have a hall-and-parlor plan (at least on the first story) are now rare in Kent County. Either not many were built using this old plan or not many have survived. For a house of this size owners were increasingly likely to prefer the more formal central-hall plan. Although such practical considerations, such as efficient use of space and minimizing draughts may have led to the plan of Owlhurst, the building may also be a reflection of the persistence of building forms and styles in a basically conservative, rural county. Although the house at the Stoltzfus Farm (K-186) was built of brick, the plan there is almost identical to that of the early section at Owlhurst.

The 1877 atlas map of Kent County shows A. C. Nowland as the owner of this farm.

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The earlier part of the main section, with the hall-and-parlor plan, is four bays wide on the first storey. The east room has two windows on the south side, and two windows are opposite on the north side. The main entry is into the west room; it is located in the third bay from the east. In the fourth bay there is a window on the south side, adjacent to the start of the corner stair in the southwest corner of the west room. On the north side only one window lights the west room (probably long a dining room). It may not be an original window location. There is said to have been an added rear, one-storey wing extending from this room (perhaps a school room), to which there would have been a door. However, because of the presence of a sizable cupboard on the north wall at the northwest corner, it is possible that there was originally only one rear window opening.

The second storey of the earliest section has three main-facade windows. It is reached by a corner stair in the southwest corner of the west room. It opens into a second-storey hall that extends from the stair across the approach (south) side of the building to the easternmost of the three bedrooms, which extends from house front to rear and has one front window. The center and western-bay windows light the hall. Each bedroom has one rear window.

The 2-1/2 storey addition at the west end of the original building has two evenly-spaced bays on both storeys in both front and rear. It is quite likely that the dormers were added to the early section at the time of this addition. The rear ones since have been removed.

The exterior walls of the entire building are now covered with white aluminum siding. On the third level of the main section, within the first addition, German shiplap siding can be seen on the western gable-end of the original hall and parlor section. It may not be original, but if it is, the early section may not be as early as the little evidence in the lower portions of the house indicate. Other parts of the main section seem to have plain, horizontal, lapped weatherboard.

A cellar is under the first two-bay, western addition. Access is through modern metal bulkhead doors in the rear. Little of any of the foundation is visible from the exterior because of the wide front porch and construction of a rear terrace with wall. The apparently brick crawl-space foundation of the eastern section has been parged; some areas appear to have been rebuilt.

There are three chimneys in the main section, through the roof ridge. The eastern and central ones were for fireplaces at each end of the original hall-and-parlor section. The western chimney was to serve the 2-1/2 storey kitchen addition. There is no chimney in the true 1-1/2 storey section. All were built within the wall of their respective sections. They now have no decorative elements (no caps or bands). They appear to have been parged and then whitewashed or painted.

All roofs are covered with wood shingles; the ridges are combed. The roof edges of the early part of the main section were probably rebuilt and
(continued)

retrimmed when the 2-1/2 storey kitchen wing was added. The main-section roof now overhangs end and side walls about 14-15". The rafters are closed on their undersides. There is a large cyma with fillets as a crown molding (probably middle to late nineteenth century, or even a later replacement). There is now no bed molding.

The west wing roof is simply finished. It is closed along rafter undersides and overhangs the walls about 10". There is no crown or bed molding. The rafter ends are square-cut.

There are now only three very plain, gable-roofed front dormers, the rear three having been removed. They are evenly spaced in the roof without regard for the fenestration below. The windows are double-hung with 6-over-6 sash. The pilasters are plain and the gable is simply pedimented with 6-7" returns. Cheeks are of aluminum siding.

The main entry, in the third bay from the east of the south side, has added, fixed metal shutters at its sides. There is a four-light transom. The transom bar is plain but with a bed of a small ovolo with fillets. The architrave has a large (7/8") bead on the inside with a shallow, U-shaped groove that may be machine-done. The center element is a 1" fillet, and the backband is a slightly flattened ovolo with fillets. The door has six panels above the lock rail and two vertical panels beneath. There are three other entries: into the western part of the main section (into the kitchen) and into the wing in both front and rear.

Windows of the main section are double-hung. Some 6-over-6 sash are in place, but others have been replaced with 1-over-1 light sash. Some architraves have been retained. The sills of the old, eastern part are bold (3-1/2"). The window on the south side in the fourth bay from the east (dining room) has a backband of large ovolo with fillets, as at the main entry; hinge pintles are still in place here. There are no rear shutters at all now; those in the front are fixed, of louvered aluminum. Wing windows are double-hung or casement or awning with 6-over-6 lights on the first storey and 3-over-3 on the second, as is usual with true 1-1/2 storey houses without dormers. The 3-over-3 windows may not be double-hung. Trim on the wing is plain; sills are bold (3").

A six-bay screened porch spans the entire main section. It appears to be a rebuilding or partial replacement of an earlier porch, from which at least the 6" x 6" posts have been retained; they have stopped chamfers. The roof is hipped and covered with wood shingles; the foundation is now of concrete blocks.

The corner stair in the southwest corner of the early part of the main section makes a 180° turn. The first steps are within the old dining room. There was also a corner stair in the first kitchen addition, but it has been removed and a straight-run stair installed along the east wall. The 1-1/2 story section has a corner stair in its northeast corner that leads to front and rear rooms, probably used for farm laborers.


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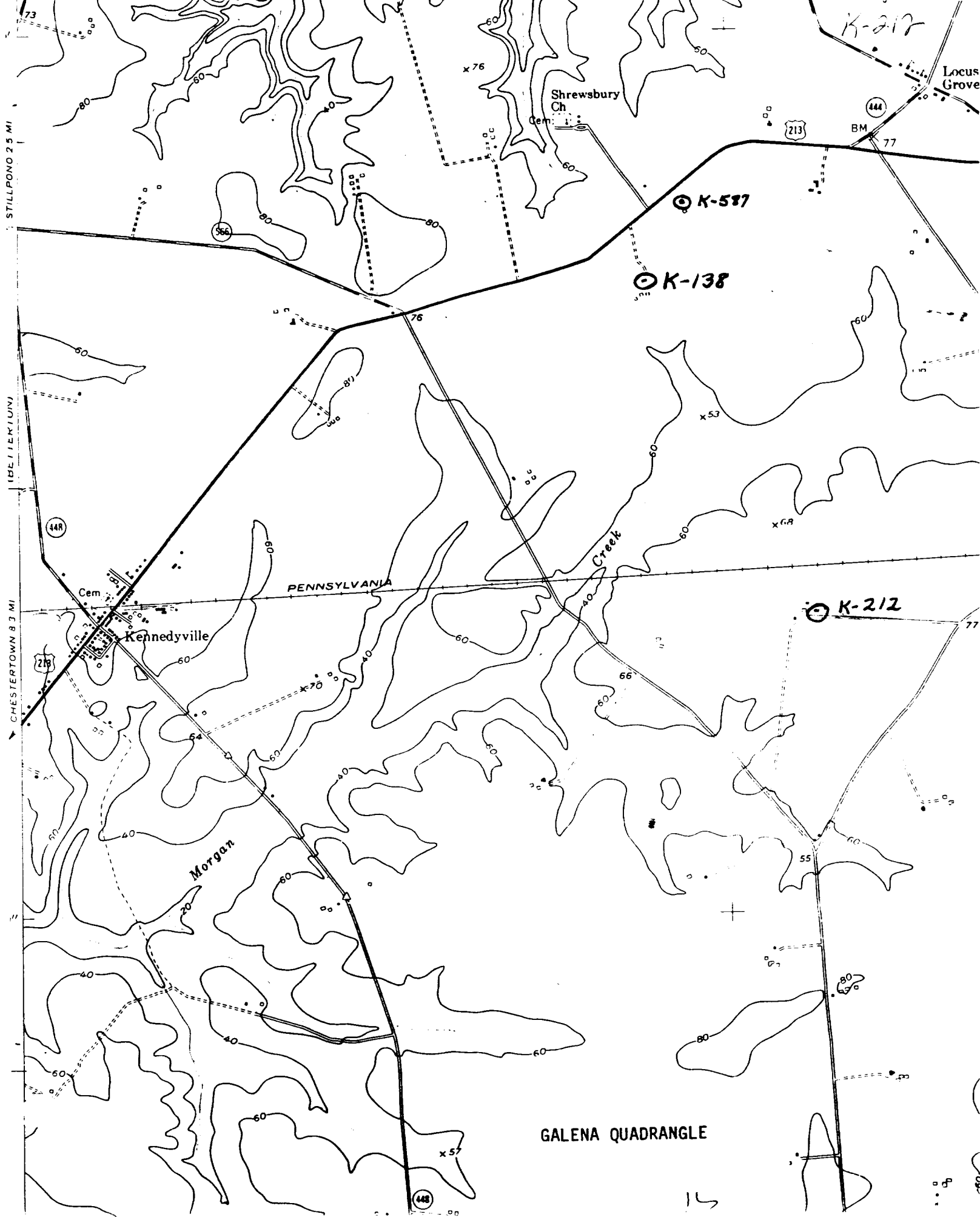
The second storey of the old section has recently been panelled and carpeted. Some 2-over-2 panelled doors are in place, with applied ogee and bevel panel molding. Window trim is 4" wide overall. There is an inside bead, then a 3/4" fillet, next an ogee, and outside an equally-sized fillet. All old fireplaces have been either rebuilt or covered.

The dining room cupboard on the north wall at the west corner, adjacent to the end opening to the kitchen wing, is almost floor to ceiling. Its tall upper double doors have 2-over-2 panels that are slightly raised, with modified ogee panel molding, with a slight inside bead. There are lower double doors with single panels. Small black strap hinges recently have been added, but several original barrel hinges are in place. The cupboard is trimmed with 2-1/4" wide material with a narrow inside bead and on which there is a backband of ovolo and fillets. The same trim is used on the door from dining room to kitchen. The baseboard in the dining room has a baseboard with a 7" lower section whose upper part is stepped back (corbelled); the cap is an ogee with bead above.

The brick springhouse/dairy measures about 8'-8" across the gable end and 10'-9" on the sides. It now has a concrete floor with an old cooler in one corner. The ceiling is board. The roof is gable, with wood shingles; a vent protrudes from the center ridge. There formerly was an ice house to the west of the spring house, partially sunk into the ground.

Owlhurst is a two-and-one-half story late eighteenth-century house that is six bays long, constructed of frame and covered with modern siding. The east half of the house is four bays long with door third bay from the east, and the west half is two bays long with door second bay from west. The windows have 6/9 sashes on the first floor and 6/6 on the second floor. There is a lower two story kitchen wing on the west side of the dwelling. The entire structure has been remodeled so that its age is hardly discernible.

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Kennedyville</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>Blacks Star Road - 1 mile</u> <u>into Station - North side</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>Dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>John Fernwalt</u> PRESENT USE <u>Dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>frame</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2 1/2</u>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-212</u> <u>(Edgewood)</u> 2. NAME <u>Owlhurst Farm</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>18th Cent.</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <div style="text-align: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u></div> <p><u>6/9 down</u> — <u>4 bays</u> — <u>6 bays</u> <u>omit</u> <u>w/ shutter pintels - door w/ transom</u></p> <p>Owlhurst is constructed of frame a 2 1/2 story ^{late} 18th house that is 6 bays long, constructed of frame and covered with modern siding. The east half of the house is 4 bays long with the ^{3rd bay from the west} door and the west half is 2 bays long with the ^{3rd bay from west} door. The windows have 6/8 sash on 1st floor & 6/6 on second floor. There is a lower 2 story kitchen wing on the west side of the dwelling. The entire structure has been remodeled so that its age is hardly discernable.</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>good</u>	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Sept 23, 1968</u>





K-212

Owlhurst

Browntown-Black's Station Road, near Locust
Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/20/86

View to southeast

5-212-3



K-212

Owlhurst

Browntown-Black's Station Road, near Locust
Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 12/12/85

View to north

K212-25

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LAWSON

K-212 Owlhurst C.1830